



## Losartan Recall

Due to the presence of a potentially carcinogenic contaminant: N-nitroso-N-methyl-4-aminobutyric acid (referred as “NMBA”), Health Canada has [recalled](https://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2019/69272a-eng.php) Teva-Losartan / HCTZ 50/12.5mg. As a precaution, Teva, Apotex, Pharmascience, and Pro-Doc have voluntarily recalled other losartan products. For details see: <https://healthykanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2019/69272a-eng.php>. At this time, no other manufacturers have recalled their losartan products.

As we anticipate that this recall may soon affect all losartan brands, alternative angiotensin receptor II blockers (ARBs) may have to be substituted. Losartan is indicated for hypertension and diabetic nephropathy. While all ARBs are indicated for hypertension, not all are indicated (or have data to support their use) for heart failure and diabetic nephropathy. The table below indicates dosing of ARBs based on outcome data. As indicated, these are estimated equivalencies and patients will need to be monitored following the switch.

| Doses of Angiotensin Receptor Blockers for Various Indications   |  |  |   |                                       |   |   |
|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| ARB  | HYPERTENSION<br>Approximate<br>Equivalent<br>Daily Dose <sup>1-3</sup> | HYPERTENSION<br>Daily Dose<br>Range <sup>4,5</sup> | HEART FAILURE<br>Target Dose <sup>6,7</sup> | POST-MI<br>Target Dose <sup>8,9</sup> | DIABETIC<br>NEPHRO-<br>PATHY<br>Usual Dose <sup>4,5</sup> | CV RISK<br>REDUCTION<br>Usual Dose <sup>4,5</sup> |
| losartan   | 50 mg  | 25-100 mg  | 150 mg daily*                               |                                       | 50-100 mg<br>daily  |   |
| azilsartan   | 40 mg  | 20-80 mg   |   |                                       |   |   |
| candesartan  | 8-16 mg  | 4-32 mg  | 32 mg daily                                 | 32 mg daily*                          |   |   |
| eprosartan   | 600 mg   | 400-800 mg   |   |                                       |   |   |
| irbesartan   | 150 mg   | 75-300 mg  | No difference<br>from placebo               |                                       | 300 mg daily  |   |
| valsartan  | 80 mg  | 80-320 mg  | 160 mg BID                                  | 160 mg BID                            |   |   |
| olmesartan   | 20 mg  | 10-40 mg   |   |                                       |   |   |
| telmisartan  | 40 mg  | 40-80 mg   |   |                                       |   | 80 mg daily                                       |
| *no official indication ARB= angiotensin II receptor blocker; CV = cardiovascular; MI= myocardial infarction |  |  |   |                                       |   |   |

The potential risk of cancer from NMBA comes with long-term exposure only. As there is no immediate risk to patients, Health Canada recommends continuing losartan medications until changes can be made by the healthcare provider

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